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MINUTES AND AGENDA FROM RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD COMMUNITY
RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1997 CNC CHARLESTON
SC
2/11/1997
CNC CHARLESTON

Agenda

Restoration Advisory Board Community Relations Subcommittee

02/11/97
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Building NH-51
CSO Conference Room

Attendees:

Louis Mintz, Arthur Pinckney, Wannetta Mallette Pratt, Fouche'na Sheppard,
Ralph Laney [Guest], Daryle Fontenot

Agenda topics

Meeting Overview

Speakers Bureau Information

Fact Sheet: RCRA and OSHA Comparison

Other Fact Sheets: Investigation Results for Zones A, B, C &
I; Property Transfer; New RAB; RAB Goals

RAB Meeting Location

Other Agenda Items

- Press Releases

(Earth Day
- RAB web page)

Resource persons:

Diane Cutler

Next time

Fact sheets

Zones Property

RAB web PAGE

Naval Base Charleston **Environmental Progress Report**

This Progress Report was developed by the Naval Base Charleston Project Team to inform residents, local officials, media, businesses, academia, and civic organizations about the progress of the environmental restoration efforts at the former naval base.

Introduction

On April 1, 1996, heads were bowed and the base was silent as 95 years of naval operations came to a close at Naval Base Charleston. Today the base is alive with environmental cleanup activities and buzzing with fresh new business. Environmental restoration activities are proceeding at a rapid pace, paving the way for reuse opportunities and an improved economy.

Fast Track Cleanup

In 1993, Naval Base Charleston was slated for closure, and President Clinton's "Fast-Track" cleanup strategy was implemented. Initial environmental studies identified nearly 400 sites on base that required further investigation into potential contamination. Today, the investigative field work has been completed on over 90% of those sites, and the Navy and state and federal regulators are preparing for the next stage of the process - selecting the best alternatives for sites requiring cleanup.

It would take more than 12 years to complete the investigations leading to cleanup at a site undergoing the standard RCRA* process, compared to only about 5½ years anticipated under the fast-track program at Naval Base Charleston.

* RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Teamwork and Dedication

Cleanup progress would not be as far along as it is today without the dedicated efforts of the "Project Team." This team - consisting of representatives from the Navy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the Environmental Detachment, and environmental contractors (EnSafe/Allen&Hosshall and Bechtel) - was formed in 1993 when base closure was announced. Then, in the spring of 1995, the team intensified its efforts to improve the decision-making process and expedite the entire cleanup. Through shared responsibility of Naval Base Charleston's environmental restoration, the Project Team:

- Created a forum for "at the table" consensus decision-making. Using this process, decisions take hours rather than weeks or months, and enable expedited action.
- Committed to meet at least monthly to ensure that environmental restoration advances at a rapid pace.
- Improved the quality of technical decisions by having all members of the Project Team participate and provide input.
- Uses innovative technical solutions (such as Rotasonic drilling) which result in both cost and time savings.

Project Team Mission: Return the base to reuse by the community through effective, efficient, and expedient cleanup, ensuring protection of human health and the environment.

- Implemented management solutions such as streamlining internal approval processes, and grouping sites into "zones" for organized and rapid implementation of environmental investigations.
- Identified a need for, and secured full-time dedicated support from DHEC.

Major Milestones

The naval base complex, consisting of approximately 2880 acres and 916 facilities, has seen significant progress in environmental restoration activities since the "Fast-Track" began in 1993.

Highlights include:

- Completed investigative fieldwork for over 90% of sites (more than 360 sites to date).
- As a result of investigations, recommended "no further action" on 188 sites.
- Installed over 414 groundwater monitoring wells and collected more than 3100 soil samples.
- Completed radiological surveys of 100% of the base. The base has been verified free of radiological contamination by DHEC and EPA.
- Completed the comprehensive Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) on 853 buildings in four months, and under budget. The EBS identifies the environmental condition of property and is a prerequisite to leasing base property.
- Completed Findings of Suitability to Lease (FOSLs) for 700 facilities (95% of the usable buildings) and 1300 acres of property. FOSLs release buildings and property for reuse through leasing agreements.
- Removed 82 underground storage tanks.
- Completed two major asbestos cleanup projects.
- Disposed of 26 tons of hazardous waste.
- Completed four Interim Measures (accelerated cleanups).

Completed investigative fieldwork for more than 90% of sites.

The naval facility has been verified "free of radiological contamination" by DHEC and EPA.

Ninety-five percent of the usable buildings have been released by the Navy for reuse.

Public Participation

A high level of community interest about the environmental activities at Naval Base Charleston was confirmed early in 1993 when more than 200 individuals applied for 12 voluntary positions on the community-based Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The Navy and Project Team members have made it a priority to educate, inform, and include the public in their environmental restoration efforts. Some of the Navy's public involvement initiatives include:

- A working Community Relations Plan that details the public involvement activities at every step in the cleanup process.
- An Information Repository of technical reports, documents, and information about the cleanup that is available to the public at the Dorchester Road branch of the Charleston Regional Library.
- Seven fact sheets written in layman's terms describing different aspects of the environmental program.
- Monthly RAB meetings, open to the public, where progress of the cleanup is discussed, and community input is received.
- Educating RAB members and the community through tours, technical demonstrations, and special presentations.



Employing Local Workforce

On April 1, 1996, the Navy launched an innovative program to expedite the cleanup of Naval Base Charleston and address the issue of employing local workers in the cleanup. This approach formed the Environmental Detachment. The Detachment, a group of 172 former Charleston Naval Shipyard workers (who were originally slated to lose their jobs when the base closed), underwent intensive training in environmental cleanup, then began assisting in environmental restoration efforts.

Since April 1, 1996, 172 former shipyard workers have been employed to support environmental restoration efforts at the naval base.

The Detachment has been instrumental in:

- Removing underground storage tanks.
- Completing Interim Measures such as removal of contaminant sources, excavation of contaminated soil, and disposal of hazardous waste.
- Excavating and removing hazardous waste and other material.
- Creating over \$300,000 in savings through recycling waste oil and scrap metals, and disposal of non-hazardous waste materials.
- Performing environmental assessments and removal of lead-based paint, asbestos, and PCBs.

In response to community interest, the Navy initiated another effort to increase the use of local workforce in its environmental restoration efforts at Naval Base Charleston. In December 1995, an open house was held at which small and minority-owned businesses were encouraged to explore subcontracting opportunities in the environmental work under way at the naval base. Thirty-three local firms attended and were added to the database for future environmental subcontracting opportunities in support of the Navy's environmental restoration efforts.

Enabling Reuse

Because of the significant progress of the environmental investigation and the swift completion of the comprehensive Environmental Baseline Survey, the Navy has signed FOSLs for more than 700 facilities (95% of the usable buildings) and 1300 acres of property. As a result, the Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority has been able to sign lease agreements with private companies and has successfully leased approximately 33% of the base as of February 1, 1997. Each signed lease helps redevelop a piece of prime real estate and is a step toward the economic revitalization of the Trident area.

Thirty-three percent of the base has been leased in the first year since the naval base closed.

In the Future

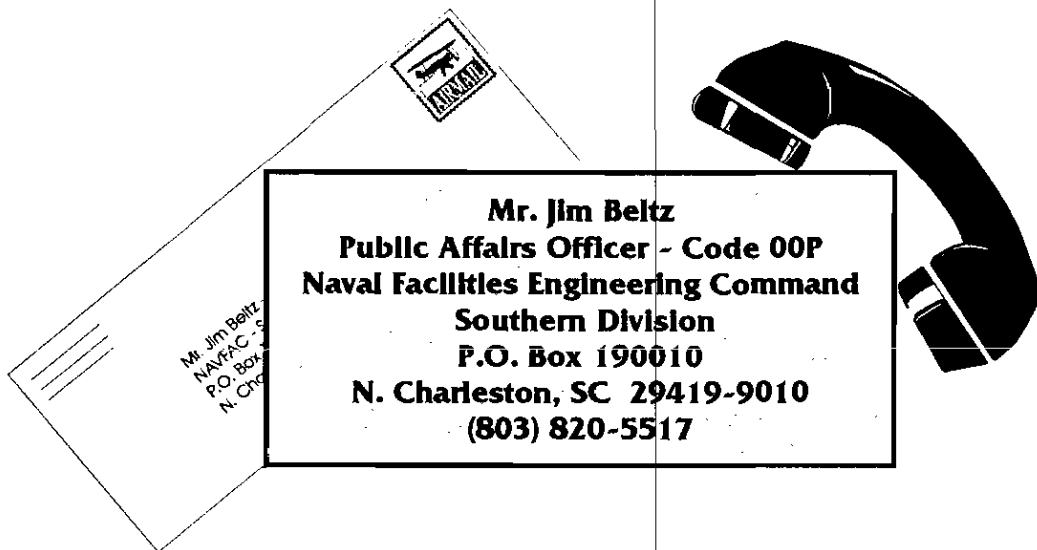
The next stage of the environmental restoration process is evaluation and selection of the best cleanup options. This process will begin in early 1997. In the meantime, the Navy will continue to sign FOSLs to accommodate reuse, and the Project Team will continue to meet monthly to accomplish its mission of cleaning up the base and returning it to the community.

**Estimated Funding to Complete Cleanup:
\$106.8 million**

Although this may seem excessive, it is a typical price tag for an environmental cleanup of Charleston's size and complexity.

For More Information

For more information on the issues presented in this Progress Report, please contact:



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